



NEWS



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Update 48: Pilot Fire Near Silverwood Lake – 80% Contained – Evacuations Lifted

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World News

Posted: August 7, 2016, 12:22 PM



Interior burning inside the containment lines on the Pilot Fire has resulted in increased smoke visible to mountain residents. There is no threat to containment lines. (Photo by Marc Peebles/San Bernardino County Fire)

UPDATE 49 – Friday, August 12 – 9:35 a.m.

Silverwood Lake – All evacuations have been lifted — mandatory and voluntary, according to information received from the U.S. Forest Service.

Highway 173 will be closed between Grass Valley Road and Rock Camp, and all previously closed forest roads shall be restricted to fire traffic to support ongoing suppression and rehabilitation operations.

MEDIA ADVISORY

The media advisory stated:

“We ask that residents returning to the evacuation zone exercise caution. Firefighters, engines, and heavy equipment continue to operate in the area. The San Bernardino County Sheriff shall continue enhanced patrols through these areas with four additional 2-deputy units.

“Incident Command has based its decision on the effectiveness of containment lines and decreased fire activity throughout the Pilot Fire. Yesterday’s tactical firing operation, while producing significant smoke and visible flames, was instrumental in reducing the threat to the mountain communities and decreasing the time residents were kept from their homes.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: The news about the lifting of evacuations was first posted by the Twin Peaks Sheriff’s Station and PIO Gilbert Flores! Thanks Gilbert for a great job.

UPDATE 48 – Friday, August 12 – 6:40 a.m.

Silverwood Lake – The Pilot Fire is now 80% contained with full containment slated for Sunday, August 14. The fire has now burned 8.115 acres, according to the latest incident report.

UPDATE 46: Thursday, August 11 – 2:12 p.m.

Lake Arrowhead, CA – Lake Arrowhead residents are seeing increased smoke from the Pilot Fire due to interior burning.

San Bernardino County Fire spokesperson Marc Peebles explained that increased fire activity and smoke in the area is from interior burning and no threat to containment lines.

Backfiring operations on Forest Service Road 2N13 near Grass Valley Road is also adding additional smoke in the area.

UPDATE 45: Thursday, August 11 – Noon

Silverwood Lake, CA – The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department has announced that evacuations for Hesperia, Apple Valley and Summit Valley have been lifted (effective noon – August 11).

Residents returning home in those areas are urged to use caution as emergency equipment is still in the area.

Evacuations in Deer Lodge Park and Lake Arrowhead are still in place.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/08/07/vegetation-fire-reported-near-silverwood-lake/>

Evacuated Summit Valley resident praises responding firefighters

Jose Quintero, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 9, 2016, 7:20 PM



Summit Valley resident Tom Flury, right, and Rudy Terrazas watch a San Bernardino County bulldozer and fire crew mop up the smoldering remains left behind from the Pilot Fire on his property. Flury said flames came up to three sides of his house on Monday. James Quigg, Daily Press

SUMMIT VALLEY — As Summit Valley resident Tom Flury held a shovel, he watched firefighters perform cleanup work on his property that is now charred and blackened. He praised the fire crews for their efforts in keeping the Pilot Fire from damaging any of his structures.

Flury and his father, Rudy Terrazas, told the Daily Press the firefighters did a phenomenal job as the pair watched a crew continue to work Tuesday afternoon.

“I can’t tell you enough about the amazing job they did,” Flury said. “It was incredible because the fire came up to three sides of the house, then the jet came in and dumped on top of the house probably five to six times.”

The brightly-colored retardant blanketed the family's home, surrounding property and vehicles.

“The house is now pink because of its new paint job. The cars got new paint jobs. But most importantly everybody is safe,” he said.

Flury was driving home when the fire started Sunday afternoon. Not long after he arrived — as the blaze started to creep toward his home — Flury and the rest of his family were told to evacuate.

“Driving home we saw a little bit of smoke coming in and said, ‘Uh oh,’” Flury said. “By the time we got home the firefighters had said the fire had spread to almost 25 to 30 acres within an hour. Then it just got out of control. We were shocked the fire came at us the way it did. It looked like the fire was pushing east, then the winds seemed to change and next thing we know we are being evacuated.”

Flury’s family has owned their parcels located on Highway 173 since 1981; fires have never threatened them before.

“This is as close as any fire has gotten,” Flury said. “These beautiful hills are now burnt. This scenery is why we moved here. It’s pretty disappointing. At one time, we thought the side of the house was on fire. It got real bad for a minute when they had the jet drop (retardant) right on top of our house. We had to back off to the command post they had set up. We just sat out for a bit while they got the fire back under control.”

San Bernardino County Fire Department Chief Mark Hartwig said he was pleased to see the outcome in Summit Valley as he stood along Highway 173 Tuesday afternoon.

Hartwig attributed the fire crews being able to save the structures to the resident’s landscaping efforts.

“If you have the proper brush clearance that we ask for, at least 100 feet from homes, you make your home defensible,” Hartwig said. “I’ve stopped at all the homes along here on Highway 173 and haven’t seen one house that didn’t really set themselves up for success. As good a job as the firefighters did, the homeowners in this area put them in a position to get there in the first place. It all starts with defensible space. You show me a home that was saved, I’ll show you a home that was defensible.”

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160809/NEWS/160809716>

Southern California wildfire edges closer to containment; 8K acres burned so far

Doug G. Ware, UPI

Posted: August 10, 2016, 7:55 PM



An air tanker drops flame retardant onto the Pilot Wildfire in San Bernardino County, Calif., on Monday. By Wednesday, the fire had burned nearly 8,000 acres of land south of Los Angeles and was at 65 percent containment, officials said. Photo courtesy San Bernardino County Fire Department

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., Aug. 10 (UPI) -- Firefighters are nudging closer to full containment of a wildfire that has so far destroyed nearly 12 square miles of land south of Los Angeles, authorities said Wednesday.

The Pilot Fire has been burning in San Bernardino County since Sunday. After growing by thousands of acres at only 5 percent containment on Monday, fire officials said they began getting a better handle on the flames.

Wednesday afternoon, the wildfire had destroyed almost 8,000 acres, according to authorities, and was nearly 65 percent contained. About 1,800 firefighters are working on the blaze, along with various suppression equipment.

Officials said the greater containment figure is largely due to multiple containment lines firefighters have been putting into place over the last three days.

"Until we actually are convinced that those lines have been tested and are going to hold, we're not going to include them in that total," U.S. Forest Service spokesman Bob Poole told the Los Angeles Times. "Those lines that were built – now we're convinced that they're good, solid lines."

"These guys and girls really busted their butts overnight and really built some containment lines," **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin said Wednesday.

Investigators are still trying to determine the cause of the fire. No injuries or structural damage has so far been reported.

The Pilot Fire is located about 75 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2016/08/10/Southern-California-wildfire-edges-closer-to-containment-8K-acres-burned-so-far/4021470871669/

Gaining Control

Controlled burning in fire's interior creates some fear; Hesperia evacuations, all local road closures lifted

Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 11, 2016, 6:44 AM



Firefighter supplies are sorted out and packaged at the High Desert Event Center for the Pilot Fire on Thursday. David Pardo, Daily Press

HESPERIA — Firefighters moved closer to encircling the Pilot Fire on Thursday, improving containment to 70 percent, lifting evacuation orders in Hesperia and reopening all roads in the High Desert, authorities said. However, firefighters also sparked some alarm among Victor Valley residents with a controlled burn in the afternoon that considerably increased smoke from the blaze for a time.

Alarm spread through the Victor Valley in mid-afternoon when previously light and minimal smoke turned to a large, dark smoke column. Fire officials told the Daily Press they received numerous calls from residents worried that firefighters may have lost control of the blaze.

California Incident Management Team 3 spokeswoman Breanna Thomasson told the Daily Press that the noticeably darker smoke was due to controlled burning within the Pilot Fire's interior. Thomasson reassured that the current containment lines were not being threatened due to the controlled burning. But the heavy smoke made its way to eastern portions of Hesperia and also into Apple Valley before dissipating by 6 p.m.

“The crews are burning out certain areas within the fire perimeter that are far away from any containment lines,” Thomasson said. “The crews are just burning out some of the fuels that have the potential to later catch fire. Those fuels are not threats at the moment but burning that out gives us even more of a better feeling knowing they can't pick back up. ... When a fire burns through it doesn't just burn everything, it will burn around certain areas. Once these fuels turn to black, they cannot burn again. This is fairly common when battling large fires.”

Fire officials said that winds continue to be a factor in containing the Pilot Fire, which has burned more than 12 square miles in the San Bernardino Mountains and Summit Valley.

However, Southern California Incident Management Team 3 spokesman Eric Sherwin told the Daily Press that none of the existing fire containment lines were threatened by the winds.

Fire officials said the blaze has consumed 7,899 acres.

"We do have wind on the fire today. However, the wind is not threatening any of our existing containment lines," Sherwin said. "The wind getting on the fire along with the residual heat that exists within the interior is still going to continue to create smoke for quite a while. But there are not any threats right now."

Sherwin said fire crews continued to work on containment lines overnight. Sherwin said he estimates firefighters have now created containment lines on the blaze's entire northwestern perimeter.

"The only open line we have is on the mountain side of the fire," Sherwin said. "We will continue to work with fixed winged aircraft, helicopters and ground crews to continue to build containment lines up there. We will also continue to improve the lines on the Hesperia side of the fire and mop up into the interior of the fire."

Sherwin said firefighters battled overnight winds that "carried through the night."

"For the last three days we have had a period each night where the wind dies off," he said. "That didn't take place last night. The winds pushed through the night. Our humidities were extremely low. But even with those factors we were able to maintain the containment lines previously established."

Sherwin also confirmed that no structures had been damaged or destroyed, but one firefighter suffered minor injuries while battling the blaze.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department officials announced that mandatory and voluntary evacuations in Summit Valley and Hesperia were lifted at noon Thursday.

The Sheriff's Department said in a news release that the road closures — including Arrowhead Lake Road, Highway 173 and Deep Creek Road, from Rock Springs Road to the spillway — would no longer be in effect. The Pacific Crest Trail will remain closed due to ongoing suppression efforts.

Authorities said to use caution due to emergency equipment that may still be in the area.

"We ask that residents returning to the evacuation zone please exercise caution," the Sheriff's Department said. "Firefighters, engines and heavy equipment continue to operate in the area! Southern California Edison will continue line repair along Highway 173 with occasional impacts to motorists.

"Incident Command has based its decision on the effectiveness of containment lines and decreased fire activity through this section of the Pilot Fire. ... Incident Commanders wish to thank the residents of Hesperia, Apple Valley and Summit Valley for their patience and understanding during the past few days while firefighters and law enforcement protected their communities."

All mountain area evacuations and road closures remain in effect, authorities said.

The Red Cross evacuation center at Oak Hills High School, which was opened Sunday night, closed at approximately 5 p.m. Wednesday. Sherwin said fire officials felt comfortable with shutting down the center as just a handful of evacuated residents had utilized it.

"Since we opened the center, it had become more of an informational center and we decided having the evacuation center at Rim of the World High School would be sufficient," Sherwin said.

The number of personnel combating the fire has been reduced by about 200. Sherwin said there are 1,324 personnel fighting the fire, down from nearly 1,750 on Wednesday.

Hesperia residents awoke to smokeless skies Thursday morning, as firefighters continued to get the upper hand on the fire, which is now in its fifth day.

Children across the Victor Valley returned to school, many after an unscheduled two-day vacation brought on by heavy smoke from the blaze, which has resulted in the voluntary or mandatory evacuation of more than 5,300 homes, most in the mountain communities of Crestline, Lake Gregory and Lake Arrowhead.

The animal evacuation center at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds closed, and any animals not claimed by their owners by noon Thursday were moved to the Devore facility, officials said.

Students in the Apple Valley Unified, Hesperia Unified and Oro Grande school districts returned to class. All three districts closed their campuses on Tuesday and Wednesday because of health concerns brought about by poor air quality.

Although smoke lingers in the Victor Valley, the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District said it is much improved. Ironically, ozone will be more of an issue than smoke on Friday, officials said.

<http://www.vdailypress.com/article/20160811/NEWS/160819960/0/SEARCH>

Pilot fire is 70 percent contained as children return to school

Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: August 11, 2016, 6:58 AM



Firefighters look for hot spots as the Pilot Fire continues to burn in the San Bernardino Mountains above Summit Valley near Hesperia, CA., Wednesday, August 10, 2016. The 7,861-acre fire was at 64 percent containment as of Wednesday morning. (Staff photo by Jennifer Cappuccio Maher/The Sun/SCNG)

Firefighters continued to gain ground in the battle against the Pilot Fire overnight increasing containment to 70 percent, fire officials said Thursday.

As of this morning, the fire had only burned a few more acres increasing from 7,861 acres to on 7,899 acres, said Eric Sherwin with the Southern California Management Team 3.

Much like Wednesday, fire officials said they will continue to focus on reinforcing and extending the established fire line around the large blaze.

High Desert schools are back in session today after the Pilot fire shut down several campuses due to bad air quality.

The Apple Valley, Hesperia and Oro Grande unified school districts canceled classes Wednesday after heavy smoke from the wildfire drifted into the communities. This was the first week of school for High Desert districts.

Hesperia Unified schools will follow their normal full-day schedule, while Apple Valley Unified will be on an “early release” schedule for Thursday, and full-day schedule on Friday, according to statements from both districts.

“We will continue to monitor air quality and limit outdoor activity as appropriate. We want to thank you all for your patience this week,” Hesperia Unified said in a statement.

“We would also like to extend a special thanks to our firefighters, the Red Cross, our school police department and all of the other school employees who have worked to protect and support our community and the surrounding areas during this time.”

As of late Wednesday night, a total of 1,662 firefighters were assigned to the fire, including 85 engines, 115 water tenders, 47 crews, 18 bulldozers and 12 helicopters.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160811/pilot-fire-is-70-percent-contained-as-children-return-to-school>

Pilot Fire: Firefighters – Where Do They All Come From? (Photo Essay)

Michael P. Neufeld , Rim of the World News

Posted: August 12, 2016, 12:05 AM



A San Bernardino County Fire unit arrives off Highway 173 near Deer Lodge Park. (Phyllis Anania-Ross for ROTWNEWS.com)



The unified command during the early stages of the Pilot Fire — U.S. Forest Service, CalFire and San Bernardino County Fire. (U.S. Forest Service)



Structure protection unit from the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District. (Phyllis Anania-Ross for ROTWNEWS.com)



Crews off Highway 173 near Deer Lodge Park. (Phyllis Anania-Ross for ROTWNEWS)



San Manuel Fire Department dispatched an engine company to assist with the Pilot Fire. (Phyllis Anania-Ross for ROTWNEWS.com)



CalFire units from Miramonte (CalFire)



Ontario Fire Department's engine was among the units providing structure protection. (Phyllis Anania-Ross for ROTWNEWS.com)



An engine company from Running Springs Fire. (Running Springs Fire)



Pilot Rock Conservation Camp inmates were among the first to arrive at the Pilot Fire. (Contributed Photo)



Chino Valley Fire was assigned to structure protection in the Lake Arrowhead area. (Phyllis Anania-Ross for ROTWNEWS.com)



A U. S. Forest Service crew makes its way into The Pinnacles. (U.S. Forest Service)



This engine from Redlands Fire was on duty near Rock Camp in Lake Arrowhead off Highway 173. (Phyllis Anania-Ross for ROTWNEWS.com)

Silverwood Lake – The Pilot Fire — which started shortly after noon on Sunday, August 7 — has been fought by a host of firefighters from large and small agencies to help protect the desert and mountain communities.

Most mountain residents are aware of the cooperating agencies who have been involved in the 7,899-acre fire – California Highway Patrol, California Office of Emergency Services, San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services, Bureau of Land Management, CALTRANS, San Bernardino County Animal Control, American Red Cross, and Southern California Edison.

PHOTO ESSAY

ROTWNEWS.com salutes the various agencies involved — including the U. S. Forest Service, CalFire and **San Bernardino County Fire** — with a photo essay of just a few of those staffing the fire lines so that no structures were lost and the containment lines gradually increased.

Local units from Big Bear Lake Fire, Running Springs Fire, Pilot Rock Conservation Camp and inmate firefighters trained by the San Bernardino County Sheriff and Fire Departments were joined by additional agencies.

<http://rotwnews.com/2016/08/12/pilot-fire-firefighters-where-do-they-all-come-from-photo-essay/>

Crews Closing In On Wildfire

Blaze reaches 70% containment as schools reopen and voluntary evacuations are lifted.

Beatriz Valenzuela, Press Enterprise

Posted: August 12, 2016



Firefighters work the Pilot fire along the 173 near Silverwood Lake on Sunday, the day the blaze started. From 1,500 acres, it has grown to 7,899. Photos: Rachel Luna



The Pilot fire reflects off the water as it burns near Silverwood Lake on Sunday. Firefighters have the blaze 70 percent contained.

Firefighters continued to gain ground in the battle against the Pilot fire, increasing containment to 70 percent, fire officials said Thursday.

Voluntary evacuations for Hesperia, Apple Valley and Summit Valley were lifted at noon Thursday, according to a U.S. Forest Service news release. Several roads in those areas were reopened as well.

Fire command based that decision on “the effectiveness of containment lines and decreased fire activity through this section of the Pilot fire,” the news release stated.

However, all mountain area evacuations and road closures remained in effect.

White smoke billowing from the fire Thursday afternoon prompted numerous calls, but fire officials told people not to worry about what were described as harmless flareups.

“It’s not going to be uncommon to see smoke coming up from the interior of the fire,” Forest Service spokesman Chon Bribiescas said Thursday. “It’s going to get hot this weekend. So (burned) areas that are holding heat are going to (re)ignite.”

Crews have dug fire lines around at least 70 percent of the perimeter of the blaze. Fire officials say the fire lines will encircle the burned area by sometime Sunday.

But so-called full containment doesn't mean the battle is over. The term for that: Control.

"Control," Bribiescas said, "is when it's out."

As of Thursday morning, the fire had burned an additional 38 acres from the night before, increasing to 7,899 acres, said Eric Sherwin, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman.

The acreage remained the same in the Thursday evening update.

The Pilot fire is burning in chaparral and brush between Pilot Rock Ridge and the 173 highway in Hesperia and continues to be mostly wind driven, according to fire officials. Aircraft are being used to slow fire progression until containment lines can be constructed in the areas north and northwest of Deer Lodge Park.

Road closures through Hesperia, Apple Valley and Summit Valley were opened. This included Arrowhead Lake Road from Hesperia Lakes to the 173, the 173 from the 138 through Summit Valley, and Deep Creek Road from Rock Springs Road to the Spillway, according to the Forest Service.

The Pacific Crest Trail will remain closed because of ongoing suppression efforts. Pinnacles Trail 3W16 also is closed off the 173.

A Red Cross emergency shelter remained open at Rim of the World High School.

Forest Service officials asked residents in communities near the burn area to remain cautious.

"Firefighters, engines, and heavy equipment continue to operate in the area," said the Forest Service statement.

"Southern California Edison will continue line repair along Highway 173 with occasional disruptions to motorists."

High Desert schools were back in session Thursday after the Pilot fire had shut down several campuses because of bad air quality.

The Apple Valley, Hesperia and Oro Grande school districts canceled classes Wednesday after heavy smoke from the wildfire drifted into those communities. This was the first week of school for High Desert districts.

"We will continue to monitor air quality and limit outdoor activity as appropriate. We want to thank you all for your patience this week," Hesperia Unified said in a statement.

As of late Thursday, 1,324 firefighters were assigned to the fire, with 49 engines, 15 water tenders, 45 crews, 15 bulldozers and one helicopter.

Evacuation orders have been lifted in all but one of the previously threatened populated areas.

The remaining evacuation exists in the tiny mountaintop community of Deer Lodge Park, northwest of Lake Arrowhead.

All major roads in the San Bernardino Mountains are open to everyone, including visitors.

[\(Print Edition Only\)](#)

Pilot Fire Morning Update: Calm winds provide hope for more containment today

Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 12, 2016, 6:39 AM



Smoke from the Pilot Fire as seen from Main Street in Hesperia on Thursday. David Pardo, Daily Press

HESPERIA — Victor Valley residents awoke Friday morning to clear skies and virtually no wind, providing hope that the sixth day of the Pilot Fire will lead to firefighters gaining more containment of the 8,115-acre blaze.

Fire officials announced Friday morning that they have contained 80 percent of the Pilot Fire and look to increase containment by the end of the day.

Southern California Incident Management Team 3 spokesman Eric Sherwin said for the first time since fire crews began battling the blaze, he is expecting "significantly" weaker winds Friday afternoon.

With temperatures in the low-60s in Hesperia, firefighters are expected to again focus the battle on the San Bernardino mountain communities. Firefighters increased containment to 70 percent Thursday and fire officials began drawing down resources. After earlier in the week utilizing nearly 1,800 personnel and 98 engines, those numbers have dropped to 1,324 firefighters and 49 engines.

Twelve helicopters, based out of Apple Valley and Redlands airports, and eight air tankers continue to drop water and fire retardant on the stubborn fire, which began Sunday afternoon near Silverwood Lake and quickly resulted in the evacuation of 5,300 homes, about 500 in Hesperia and the rest near Lake Arrowhead, Lake Gregory and Crestline. Evacuation orders for Hesperia, Summit Valley and the Deep Creek area of Apple Valley were lifted on Thursday afternoon, but they remain in effect in the mountain communities.

The Apple Valley, Hesperia and Oro Grande school districts will be back in session today for the second straight day after closing all schools on Tuesday and Wednesday because of air quality concerns.

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District expects improved air quality again today, but said ozone levels will be high in Hesperia and near the mountains.

Temperatures on the fire lines will begin to heat up as well and will continue to do so through the weekend. Incident command expects temperatures between 85 and 90 degrees today, with relative humidity around 15 percent in the afternoon, increasing to 30 percent at night.

Temperatures in the Victor Valley also will begin to warm, with highs in the low 90s today, but increasing to triple digits on the weekend before cooling into the low 90s again by the end of next week.

Fire officials in their incident report said "threats to structures in Deer Lodge Park, Lake Arrowhead, Las Flores Ranch, Hesperia and Apple Valley are diminishing, but still significant. Protection measures for threatened and endangered species will remain in place for the Mojave River Forks Reservoir and Deep Creek areas. Threats will reduce as work progresses on securing the eastern flank of the fire."

This story will be updated as more information becomes available. Visit www.vvdailynews.com throughout the day and night for the latest news on the Pilot Fire.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20160812/pilot-fire-morning-update-calm-winds-provide-hope-for-more-containment-today>

Wildfire continues burning north of Lake Arrowhead

5,300 homes under evacuation orders

Douglas W. Motley, *Alpenhorn News*

Posted: August 12, 2016



Looking north from Deer Lodge Park on Monday afternoon. (Photo by Douglas W. Motley)

A wildland fire, dubbed the “Pilot Fire” for its start Sunday near Pilot Rock Forestry Camp near Silverwood Lake, had scorched 6,963 acres of tinder-dry brush north of Crestline and Lake Arrowhead as of Tuesday morning, according to reports from the U.S. Forest Service.

The blaze, which was declared 6 percent contained on Tuesday, resulted in a mandatory evacuation order for Deer Lodge Park at 2:47 p.m. Monday. By 3:35 p.m., sheriff’s officials announced that a voluntary evacuation was in place for all areas north of Peninsula Drive, west of North Bay Road, south of Highway 173 and west of Golf Course Road in Lake Arrowhead.

According to **San Bernardino County Fire Department** Division Chief Kathleen Opliger, the blaze was burning approximately one mile north of Deer Lodge Park on Monday. Regarding the voluntary evacuation of the north shore and other areas north of of Lake Arrowhead, Opliger told *The Alpenhorn News*, “This doesn’t mean that residents must leave immediately, but that they need to get their belongings ready in case they need to leave.”

“Currently, there are two fronts, one in the Grass Valley Drainage, and the other in Summit Valley,” U.S. Forest Service spokesman Travis Mason said late Monday. He said the main branch of the fire was spreading northeastward through the Las Flores Ranch area of Summit Valley in the general direction of the Deep Creek Spillway.

Initial reports indicated that a car fire was responsible for igniting the blaze, which was first reported at 12:03 p.m. Sunday in the vicinity of Highway 138 and Pilot Rock Camp. However, Mason said he couldn’t confirm that report, saying only that the fire’s cause “is under investigation.”

Highway 138 from Old Mill Road in Crestline to Highway 173 in Summit Valley was closed to through traffic most of the day Sunday in order to accommodate emergency vehicles. It was reopened to the public on Monday.

Numerous air tankers and water-dropping helicopters bombarded the initial flames throughout Sunday afternoon, aided by some 300 firefighters on the ground. By press time on Tuesday, the number of firefighter battling the blaze had grown to 934. Firefighters on the ground Tuesday were aided by 91 fire engines, 15 water tenders, 14 crews, 11 bulldozers, 8 helicopters and 8 air tankers, including one modified DC-10.

Crestline residents reported seeing helicopters repeatedly dipping their hoses and water buckets into Lake Gregory and then returning to the blaze on Monday to drop their loads. A helicopter capable of flying at night is assisting firefighters overnight.

The American Red Cross has set up an evacuation center at Rim of the World High School in Lake Arrowhead. Residents evacuating small and large animals can take them to the San Bernardino County Animal Shelter in Devore, located at 19777 Shelter Way.

According to fire officials, no structures had been burned, as of Tuesday morning and no drones had interfered with air operations. No estimate for full containment was available at press time on Tuesday.

<http://alpenhornnews.com/wildfire-continues-burning-north-of-lake-arrowhead-p7405-155.htm>

No deaths from blaze, official says

Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 12, 2016

A video shared online earlier this week on a Facebook page with over 7 million followers listed inaccuracies about the Pilot Fire, authorities said Thursday. Information given on the video more accurately described the Soberanes Fire in Monterey County, including that a man named Robert Reagan died as a result of the blaze. California Incident Management Team 3 spokesman Eric Sherwin confirmed Thursday that no one has died in the Pilot Fire. Sherwin did say one firefighter suffered minor injuries. The video was removed from the Facebook page at approximately 2 p.m. Thursday.

[\(Print Edition Only\)](#)

Fire breaks out in Yucca Valley house

Leah Sanson, Hi Desert Star

Posted: August 11, 2016 1:39 PM



Firefighters finishing putting out flames at a house on Avalon Avenue Thursday, Aug. 12.

YUCCA VALLEY — A fire that roared through a house in the 7000 block of Avalon Avenue Thursday is currently under investigation. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Four **San Bernardino County** fire engines, two ambulances and a battalion chief responded to the call around 11:30 a.m.

Officials at the scene said the fire originated in the back corner of the house, in the kitchen behind the garage. Firefighters battled the flames for 30 minutes before they were able to put them out.

Power lines fell down during the incident and a Southern California Edison crew arrived to turn off the power to prevent any additional damage or fires.

Battalion Chief Scott Tuttle said no one was hurt and the homeowner was not at home when the fire broke out.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_bc57f320-6003-11e6-bf53-13eaf171ff67.html

Firefighters extinguish fire at 2-story house

Monica Solano, Victor Valley Daily Press

Posted: August 11, 2016, 4:35 PM



Apple Valley Fire Protection District firefighters battled a fire at a two-story home early Thursday morning. Photo courtesy of Apple Valley Fire Protection District

APPLEY VALLEY — Firefighters battled a blaze at a two-story house early Thursday morning that appeared to be caused by the improper disposal of smoking materials in a bedroom, officials said.

Around 4:40 a.m., Apple Valley Fire Protection District officials responded to the fire in the 18500 block of Cocqui Road in Apple Valley.

The first crew to arrive found heavy fire showing from the front bedroom window on the second story as the flames began to extend into the attic, according to AVFPD Fire Chief Sid Hultquist.

Firefighters confined the fire to the second floor and attic space and extinguished the flames in 20 minutes.

Firefighters saved multiple antiques and family heirlooms on the first floor and a classic car in the garage.

All occupants escaped but one female resident suffered from minor smoke inhalation and was treated and transported to a local hospital for evaluation, Hultquist said.

A total of 20 firefighters were on scene with three engine companies and one chief officer. Three engines from the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** also assisted.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20160811/firefighters-extinguish-fire-at-2-story-house>

Two Dogs Die in Yucca Valley House Fire

Z107.7 News

Posted: August 12, 2016



Firefighters hooked up the hose to the hydrant on the corner.



After a hole was cut in the roof, the flames and smoke came pouring out of the home.



Firefighters battle the flames from the door to the home.

Two dogs died in a fire that destroyed a Yucca Valley home Thursday morning. Firefighters from Yucca Valley, Yucca Mesa, and Joshua Tree were called to the 7000 block of Palomar Avenue at 11:15 a.m. Smoke was pouring from attic vents in the home when fire fighters arrived. Flames were too intense inside the home, and so firefighters were forced to attack the blaze by cutting through the roof and the garage door. A neighbor said when he noticed the fire, he had opened the door and yelled inside, but there was no response. The dogs

were home alone inside the home at the time of the fire, but firefighters were not able to enter the home due to the intense heat, which could be felt by bystanders 50 feet away. One dog was found in the hallway; the other was found under a bed in a bedroom. **County Fire** Captain Zack Taylor said the fire started in the kitchen in the back corner of the house, but the exact cause is still under investigation. Taylor added that anyone who comes across a fire before firefighters arrive should NOT break out windows or leave doors open, as that causes the fire to intensify much more rapidly and is detrimental to fighting fires.

<http://z1077fm.com/dogs-presumed-dead-in-yucca-valley-house-fire/>